WSR 26-13-108
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
[Filed June 17, 2026, 9:17 a.m.]

PUBLIC NOTICE

Announcing the Draft Washington Department of Transportation Municipal Stormwater General Permit for Public Review and Comment

The Washington state department of ecology (ecology) proposes to reissue the Washington department of transportation (WSDOT) municipal stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and state waste discharge general permit. The current permit was last issued in March 2019 and expired in April 2024; however, the permit has been administratively extended. The draft general permit, fact sheet on the draft general permit explaining the legal and technical basis for the permit, and a copy of the proposed application for coverage are available from 9:00 a.m. on July 1, 2026, through 11:59 p.m. on August 21, 2026. Ecology will host an informational presentation and public hearing on the draft permit during the public comment period.

Purpose of the Permit: The permit provides coverage for discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems owned or operated by WSDOT. Under the Federal Clean Water Act, Title 33 U.S.C. § 1251, and the State Water Pollution Control Act, chapter 90.48 RCW, we require the agency to manage and control stormwater runoff to protect water quality in Washington. In addition to covering state highways and transportation-related facilities, this permit also covers stormwater discharges from rest areas, park and ride lots, ferry terminals, and maintenance facilities within urban areas of Washington.

Economic Impact: WAC 173-226-120 requires ecology to prepare an economic impact analysis on all draft general permits which are intended to directly cover small businesses. The purpose of the economic impact analysis is to determine whether the permit disproportionally impacts small businesses. An economic impact analysis is not required for the municipal stormwater permit because the only permittee is a public entity. Any analysis of proportionality would be purely speculative, as no businesses, small or otherwise, will receive coverage under this permit.

Applying for Coverage Under the Permit: WSDOT has already reapplied for coverage and is covered under the existing permit until the new permit goes into effect. WSDOT is the only permittee applicable for coverage under the permit, submitted a complete permit application to ecology, and satisfied all applicable public notice and State Environmental Policy Act requirements (WAC 173-226-200). Access to the application is available online at https://ecology.wa.gov/WSDOTpermit.

Submitting Comments: Ecology will accept comments on the draft permit from 9:00 a.m. on July 1 through 11:59 p.m. on August 21, 2026. Ecology prefers online comment submission. Comments should reference specific permit text when possible. You can submit comment in the following ways:

- Submit comments online at https://ecology.commentinput.com?id=5egSMEpPJ (preferred method).
- By United States mail to Foroozan Labib, WSDOT Municipal Permit Comments, Washington Department of Ecology, P.O. Box 47696, Olympia, WA 98504-7696.
- At our public hearing.

Public Meeting and Hearing: During the comment period we will host an online public meeting and hearing where we will explain the

proposed changes to the permit and answer questions prior to the formal hearing. The hearing provides opportunity for the public to give formal spoken testimony on the proposed draft permit. The public hearing begins immediately following the meeting and concludes when public testimony is complete. Spoken testimony will receive the same consideration as written comments.

Online Public Meeting and Hearing: On August 5, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. Register in advance for this meeting at https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/dGeBAI2URnybZG7K77asyg.

After ecology receives and considers all public comments, we will make a final decision on permit issuance. Ecology expects to make a decision on the general permit in fall 2026.

Copies of the Draft Permit and Fact Sheet: The draft permit and fact sheet are available online at https://ecology.wa.gov/WSDOTpermit. You may request hard copies from the Water Quality Program by contacting Jackie Lince at jackie.lince@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-6600.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility: To request an ADA accommodation, email foroozan.labib@ecy.wa.gov, call 564-669-4292, or dial 711 to call through the Washington telecommunications relay for services like text telephone. Visit https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility for more accessibility information.

Language Services: Ecology is committed to providing language services, including translation and interpretation, for people whose primary language is not English. To request these services, email foroozan.labib@ecy.wa.gov or call 564-669-4292. If you call, ask for an interpreter to be connected with one.

El Departamento de Ecología está comprometido a ofrecer servicios de idioma, incluidos traducción e interpretación, para personas cuyo idioma principal no es el Inglés. Para solicitar estos servicios, envíe un correo electrónico a foroozan.labib@ecy.wa.gov o llame al 564-669-4292. Si llama, pida que le conecten con un intérprete.

Ecology Contact: Foroozan Labib, Washington State Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program, P.O. Box 47696, Olympia, WA 98504-7696, phone 564-669-4292, email foroozan.labib@ecy.wa.gov.